BILL: Senate appears likely to pass proposal

FROM PAGE 1

"But discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is real, and it is wrong."

Foes of the bill — many of whom oppose homosexuality on religious grounds — argue that, unlike race, it's nearly impossible for an employer to determine whether someone is gay. Therefore, they say, it's difficult to comply with the proposed law.

"This gets into very subjective evaluation," said Sen. Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs. "I think it would be a legal nightmare if this ever passes."

Lamborn and others charged that the bill would expose small businesses to lawsuits and other legal problems.

One of the most impassioned exchanges of the debate came between the chamber's only two black senators — Ed Jones, R-Colorado Springs, and Peter Groff, D-Denver.

Groff responded to the notion that the bill would hurt business.

"Discrimination is wrong, period," Groff said. "We had the exact same arguments from the well of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in the 1960s. Civil rights is about treating people equally . . . treating everyone equally."

Jones, who grew up in the segregated South, countered Groff.

"There is a difference," he said. "When we sit in across from a potential employer, he can make that decision as to what race we are. I would not know a homosexual unless that person told me."

Continuing to push the analogy between gay rights and the race issue, Groff said, "I would have a hard time saying Dr. (Martin Luther) King wouldn't stand up today and say discrimination is wrong."

While the debate skipped between religion and civil rights, it eventually collapsed into a partisan tussle.

Democrats, who control the Senate and generally support the bill, resisted several amendments offered by GOP opponents. At one point, they refused to allow Lamborn to offer an amendment that would have barred public school teachers from dressing as a member of the opposite sex.

Lamborn charged that refusing the amendment was "in blatant violation of the rules."

Some Republicans, however, reminded Lamborn that the GOP often blocked Democrats from offering amendments when it controlled the Senate.

It appears that SB28 has the votes to pass in the Senate. That would send the bill to the House for debate. Democrats also control the House, which could mean the bill has the legs to reach the desk of Gov. Bill Owens.

Owens has not taken a position on the bill, but he would be lobbied by conservative groups to veto the measure.

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Garth Hystad hits golf balls Monday toward one of four greens on land he bought just north of Penrose. His neighbors are tryin

DRIVING R
HORSE-LO

By BILL VOGRIN
THE GAZETTE

SIDE STREETS
neighborhood people & issues

Garth Hystad dropped a golf ball on green artificial grass, swung a 7-iron and smashed the ball toward a circle of dirt 200 yards away.

One by one, he launched balls into the sky down a juniper-lined fairway and watched them drop in the dirt, where nearby workers were installing more fake grass to create four putting greens.

Hystad stood in the middle of his long, narrow 35-acre property on Barrett Road, 15 miles south of Colorado Springs off Highway 115.

Across the fence live his neighbors, Robert and Lana LeVeck, horse lovers who want to stop Hystad from hitting more balls.

Toward that goal, they are fighting to keep him from building a new home — there's already a house on the property — to accompany the four-hole driving and putting range that he's building for family and friends.

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Parole granted to
Woodland Park man will be freed afte

By DEEDEE CORRELL
THE GAZETTE

A Woodland Park teenager who shot his mother in the face then buried her under rocks 17 years ago was granted parole earlier this month, state prison officials reported.

Richard Joseph Mijares, then 17, has served 65 percent of a 26-year sentence.

He was initially sentenced to 36 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, but a judge cut his sentence by 10 years at a sentence-reduction hearing in 2001.

Former Teller County Sheriff Gary Shoemaker once described the case as one of the most disturbing in his career.

Mijares shot his 47-year-old mother, Barbara, in the eye March 24, 1988, at their family home in the Ridgewood subdivision eight miles north of Woodland Park.

He left the dead woman wrapped in a blanket and covered with rocks in a wooded area about 15 miles north of

Senate bill would shield gay workers

Preliminary OK follows hot debate

By KYLE HENLEY
THE GAZETTE

DENVER • Legislation that would bar employers from firing someone for being gay sparked one of the most heated debates Wednesday of this year's General Assembly session.

Senate Bill 28, which would add sexual orientation to the state's anti-discrimination laws, won preliminary approval in the Senate after a nearly three-hour floor fight. A final vote could come today.

2005
General Assembly

INSIDE: State close to plan for tobacco tax funds, group says. **Page 3**

Backers equate the bill to the civil rights movement of the 1960s, saying gay Coloradans deserve and need the same protections afforded to blacks and other minority groups.

State law already bars employers from discriminating based on age, race, sex or religious affiliation.

"I'm not trying to suggest you should accept the homosexual lifestyle, that's not what this is about," said Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver.

SEE BILL • PAGE 2

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STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER 10

1. Why is Jamie frustrated at the beginning of this chapter?

2. Describe what happens to Jamie both physically and mentally when he tires to read?

3. How did Jamie figure out the message? What methods does he use to understand the writing? Have you ever worked at something that hard? What was it? Was the effort worth it?

NEWSPAPER CONNECTION

1. Captions explain a picture and identify the people in it. Write captions for the artwork for each chapter of this story.

STUDY GUIDE BY JAN McDONALD
ROCKY MOUNTAIN READER

Over
and Feeli
Down?

If you are at least 65 years of age a
below, you may be suffering from

- Feelings of worthlessnes
- Feeling lethargic, always
- Loss of interest, or pleas
- Difficulty concentrating
- Change in appetite and/
- Irritability or losing tem
- Difficulty sleeping
- Memory loss

Volunteering could help provide c
and others over age 65 with depres

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